

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method having a convergent irradiation step of convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light onto a sample using a converging lens, and a measurement step of measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through a thermal lens produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light,

characterized in that:

the exciting light and the detecting light convergently irradiated in said convergent irradiation step have different frequencies to one another; and

the converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

2. (original) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method having a convergent irradiation step of convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light onto a sample using a converging lens, and a measurement step of measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through a thermal lens produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light,

characterized in that:

the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have different frequencies to one another; and

the converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

3. (amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the converging lens ~~is~~ comprises a rod lens.

4. (original) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising a converging lens for convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light onto a sample, and measurement means for measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through a thermal lens produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light,

characterized in that:

the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have different frequencies to one another; and

said converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 30 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

5. (original) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus comprising a converging lens for convergently irradiating exciting light and detecting light onto a sample, and measurement means for measuring a change in intensity accompanying deflection of the detecting light upon passing through a thermal lens produced through the convergent irradiation of the exciting light,

characterized in that:

the convergently irradiated exciting light and detecting light have different frequencies to one another; and

said converging lens satisfies a condition that a length of a shift in a focal position of the detecting light from a focal position of the exciting light is in a range of 2 times to 25 times a confocal length at the frequency of the exciting light.

6. (amended) A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized in that said converging lens ~~is~~ comprises a rod lens.

7. **(new)** A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the converging lens comprises a rod lens.

8. **(new)** A photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said converging lens comprises a rod lens.